

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today National Crime Victims' Rights Week is scheduled for April 18-24, 2004. This year's theme, "Victim's Rights: America's Values" helps us recognize that when we value equal rights for all Americans, safety and protection for those who have been victimized, and justice for all, we value crime victims' rights and services.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Crime Victim's fund established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) which, over the past two decades, has provided over \$5.5 billion for victim assistance programs that offer a wide range of services to crime victims, and victim compensation that helps victims cope with the financial impact of crime. VOCA is not derived from taxpayer's dollars but, rather, from Federal criminal fines, forfeited appearance bonds, and special assessments on Federal convictions.

Since 1972, the victim assistance field has worked to ensure that crime victims are treated with compassion and respect; that they are informed of their rights and involved in justice processes as more than just witnesses, and that they are aware of

victim assistance and compensation programs that can help them cope with the aftermath of crime. Over 32, 000 laws have been passed at the federal, state and local levels that promote victims' rights and services, including constitutional amendments in 33 states. And today there are 10,000 community and justice system-based organizations that provide help and hope to victims of crime.

For the fifth year in a row, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York will be hosting an award ceremony on Friday, April 23, 2004 to acknowledge the individuals who have worked hard to provide help and hope to crime victims and who have made a significant difference in the lives of people and communities who are affected by crime. The recipients of the awards are: **Bret A. Puscheck- Assistant United States Attorney.** Mr. Puscheck is being awarded for his hard work, commitment, and dedication to the victims and witnesses involved in his project exile (firearms) cases, particularly domestic violence victims. **Robert Kelley-Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.** Mr. Kelley is being awarded for his hard work, efficiency, and conscientiousness involving emergency witness assistance cases. **David Ball- Federal Probation Officer.** Mr. Ball is being awarded for an excellent job in handling some of the largest and most research intensive victim cases. Mr. Ball works hard making victims a priority in the pre-sentence reports, resulting in higher amounts of restitution for the victims and increased sentencing enhancements ordered for defendants.

**Judith Olin- Assistant District Attorney.** Ms. Olin is being awarded for her hard work and compassion in working with child victims and their families, along with her awareness and advocacy in promoting victim's rights. **Laura Grube- Coordinator of the Counseling and Advocacy Program at Haven House-** Ms. Grube being awarded for her hard work, compassion, dedication and commitment in assisting and ensuring the safety of domestic violence victims. **Victim/Witness Awards** -- A victim is being awarded for her courage, determination, perseverance and cooperation in the successful prosecution of a devastating investment fraud case. Walden Galleria Mall Security Officer, Arthur Fijalkowski, is being awarded for his actions in starting an investigation against a sexual predator and bringing the defendant to justice.

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